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## **Spring 2021 Edition**

Megan Maxwell, Editor

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# *Longleaf*

## **Museum Complex Open Reduced Hours and Covid-19 Precautions**

Did any of you ever imagine that in your lifetime you would experience a historic pandemic? COVID-19 has impacted every aspect of our daily lives including the temporary closures of all state museums and historic sites. While it was quite lonely working in a museum with no visitors, our staff stayed busy working on future programming plans, research projects, collections, and exhibits while maintaining social distancing and following all CDC guidelines. This has been a great opportunity for us to get to all of our "back burner" projects.

The Museum building resumed public hours in September 2020 and Poe House tours resumed in November 2020. Our current hours remain reduced, but we are open Wed-Sat 10-3 with Poe House tours available Wed-Fri at 11 and 1, and Saturdays on the hour from 10-2.

We look forward to an increase in visitation over the summer as more people receive vaccinations and resume travelling. In compliance with Executive Order 215, face masks are no longer required for visitors in most settings outdoors or indoors at our facility. We strongly encourage those who have not yet been vaccinated for COVID-19 to continue wearing masks and practice social distancing while visiting our facility.

Continue to follow us on our social media sites @museumofthecapefear and check our website, [museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov](http://museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov), for updates on events, increased hours, and virtual programming announcements.

## **Leisa Greathouse Receives NCMC Lifetime Achievement Award**



**Retired Curator of Education, Leisa Greathouse, assists a young visitor during Pirate Fun Week in 2012.**

In May the North Carolina Museums Council announced its 2021 special award winners. Winners were selected through a process of nomination and peer review and represent the best of North Carolina's work to promote and share our unique stories. The North Carolina Museums Council Awards program provides a vehicle for promoting excellence in North Carolina museums and related institutions.

Leisa Greathouse was awarded the William T. Alderson Lifetime Achievement Award. This award was established to recognize retired museum professionals for a lifetime of service to demonstrate NCMC's respect and admiration for the body of work they accomplished in their career.

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## Leisa Greathouse, Curator of Education, Retires



**Among her many duties for the Museum was the role of Volunteer Coordinator. Here, Leisa addresses our volunteers at the annual winter luncheon in 2019.**

Leisa Greathouse retired November 1, 2020 after more than 30 years of service to the state of North Carolina. Much of that time she was the Curator of Education at the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex in Fayetteville. Early in her career she worked as site manager of Somerset Place State Historical site in Creswell, and Assistant Site Manager at Elizabeth II State Historical Site in Manteo as well as Historic Site Interpreter at Bennett Place State Historic Site in Durham.

Leisa proved to be innovative in creating educational programs and always planned events going well beyond school and group tours of buildings and grounds and daily visitor interaction. She created such programs as the African American Chautauqua, which consisted of actors portraying different historic individuals. This program ran several years and Leisa received funding through the North Carolina Humanities Council. She also originated an annual Civil War Quiz Bowl, which ran for over 13 years. She started a summer camp, which ran nearly every year she was at the museum and continues to be funded by the Cumberland Community Foundation. She created and planned large outdoor events, including an annual Festival of Yesteryear (formerly the Cape Fear Folk Festival). For this event, we continue to receive funding from the Arts Council of Fayetteville and Cumberland County and the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation.

Leisa continuously involved herself in community projects. She worked closely with the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County, developing exhibits at

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## Lifetime Achievement

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Leisa Greathouse, spent her career in museums and historic sites sharing her love of history, costumed interpretation, archaeology, and grassroots community outreach. Leisa has served in a variety of capacities, from interpreter to curator. She has been innovative in planning educational outreach opportunities, special events, and major community programs. Always a team player, Leisa contributed to statewide educational planning committees for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for both museums and historic sites. Leisa's contributions to North Carolina's museums are extensive and her spirit and dedication to creating an equitable space for learning is felt far and wide.

## Greathouse Retires

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the Arts Center, serving on committees, and collaborating on events and programs. She was also an active partner with the Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. Besides serving on committees, and assisting with projects, she was instrumental in supplying historical information, and writing and editing content for the FACVB's Cultural Historic Trails brochure and web content. The FACVB awarded her their first Fayetteville Area Certified Tourism Ambassador of the Year Award in 2010.

Leisa was sought out specifically for assistance in community projects. She served on the Design Committee for the NC State Veterans Park in downtown Fayetteville and took a major lead in a public arts project in the Massey Hill Community. For this project, she held documentation workshops with the intent of bringing out artifacts, documents and photographs related to the cotton mill community of Massey Hill.

Leisa was involved in professional development. Besides participating in leadership programs run by state government, she served on educational committees with the NC Museum of History and conducted workshops in and out of state. She served as Interim Director at the Museum of the Cape Fear for over a year between permanent directors. As the staff at the museum grew, she eventually managed three full-time staff members. As the museum lost funding due to budget cuts, staff numbers were reduced, but Leisa volunteered for more duties and again far exceeded expectations. She became our IT troubleshooter and created and managed our website and social media platforms. Leisa volunteered to take over our gift shop, and, with the financial support of the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation, made a success of it. Thanks to Leisa, we have an excellent corps of volunteers. This diverse group of over 50 individuals help with visitor services, gardening, clerical work, photography, collections care, and other duties. Quite a few of our volunteers have been with us 10-20 years.

As Leisa headed towards retirement, she became involved in two projects involving the growth and development of the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex. She was on the museum Foundation's ad hoc Cape Fear Committee on African American History (now the River Jordan Committee on African American Heritage). She continues to work with the committee and is reviving her African American Chautauqua program and connecting with educational institutions to further the committee's goal to "collect, preserve and interpret the history and heritage of African Americans in the Cape Fear region." She is also on the design committee for Arsenal Park development as the museum works to transform into the North Carolina Civil War and Reconstruction History Center. The beginning phase of this project has been the redevelopment of three historic houses into an educational resource center, with a library and distance learning lab. Next in development will be a picnic pavilion, interpretive signage and a boardwalk through the park. The History Center's mission is an accurate portrayal of the history of all North Carolinians leading up to, during and after the Civil War.

Leisa Greathouse was, and will continue to be, a tremendous asset and resource for the Museum of The Cape Fear Historical Complex, Fayetteville and Cumberland County and the State of North Carolina. She has always gone above and beyond the job expected of her and so has brought much positive attention to the Museum of the Cape Fear and the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Unfortunately due to COVID-19, we could not have a proper retirement party for Leisa, but a small retirement celebration with our immediate staff was held in November. Leisa received gifts and well wishes from current and former staff and volunteers. Along with her husband Jim, Leisa volunteers with the NC Civil War and Reconstruction History Center and they are both enjoying retirement!



## Message from the Administrator

Thank you for reading our first newsletter in a long while. With the uncertainty the pandemic seemed to bring on a daily basis, we cut back on what we could offer to the public, and news changed so often, we did not want to publish something that might be true today, but not tomorrow.

We did manage to put a good bit of educational material on-line, and we hope you have found this on our website and social media. Needless to say, this is the wave of the future. We will continue to offer material like this (and more) as we grow in our abilities and expertise in technology. COVID grants have made it possible for us to get more equipment, the NC Civil War and Reconstruction History Center gives us access to even more digital resources with the use of their distance learning lab, and the State of NC has assisted with expansion of on-site internet access for the public (especially school children) through NC Connect. Watch us grow and experiment with all of this, and if you have the knowledge and interest, please volunteer with us to help us learn.

Keep an eye on our website and social media – we should be expanding open hours and days very soon as we are able to bring more of our part-time staff back to work and as more volunteers feel comfortable coming to help us with visitor services.

Thanks for your support and sticking with us!

David Reid, Administrator

## MCFHC Welcomes New Curator of Education

On April 19, 2021, Leslie Leonard joined the MCFHC staff as the new Curator of Education. Previously, Leslie was Assistant Site Manager at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum Historic Site in Sedalia, North Carolina. While there, she developed interpretive programs and activities for inter-generational learning and engagement and conducted tours and programs as well as on-site and off-site presentations. She has experience with historic houses, artifact care and management, research, volunteer program management, site rentals and gift shop services.

Her past work has included involvement with the NC Runaway Slave Advertisements Project at UNC Greensboro, and the development of an exhibit on NC chain gangs in the 1920s, which opened at The New School in New York City in 2016.

Leslie is learning museum and 1897 Poe House operations and going through more than 30 years of files on the museum's history. Please join us in welcoming Leslie on board and come greet her when you can!



Leslie Leonard, Curator of Education

## Message from the MCFHC Foundation

Greetings on behalf of the MCFHC Foundation. Like many of you, we have made many adjustments this past year in response to COVID-19 both at the museum and in our homes.

Our staff of museum professionals have worked diligently to bring you online programming during the height of the Pandemic and look forward to expanding our online offerings. As restrictions began to lift earlier this year, on site opportunities to tour our properties and exhibits gradually increased following CDC and NCDHHS guidelines. Our utmost priority has been the safety of our visitors, staff, foundation members, and the community we serve.

As we resume a more public presence, we do so with a new Curator of Education, Ms. Leslie Leonard. We are grateful to the steady leadership of her predecessor, Mrs. Leisa Greathouse, who retired at the end of 2020. We look forward to more great programming and community engagement from Ms. Leonard. As you read in the newsletter, we have a special exhibit, "Navigating Jim Crow: The Green Book and Oasis Spaces in North Carolina" Traveling Exhibit opening this summer and continue to work to improve your experience at the MCFHC.

On behalf of the Foundation, we appreciate your support be it financial, in-kind or time. As a regional branch of the North Carolina History Museum, we look forward to introducing you to the southeast region of NC through our exhibits and tours.

Remember our Museum shop is open and ready to help you find a gift, souvenir or educational item.

If you would like to discuss volunteering, sponsorship opportunities, weddings, rentals or other MCFHC Foundation programming, please contact Museum Administrator David Reid at 910-500-4242 or david.reid@ncdcr.gov

Thank you for supporting us in the past, the present and into the future.

Kelli Cardenas Walsh, Ph.D.  
President  
MCFHC Foundation, Inc.



### 2021 MCFHC

#### Foundation Board

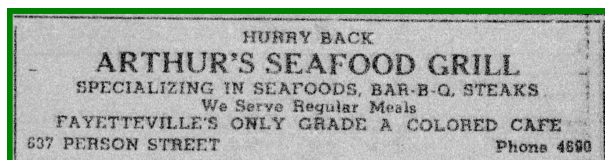
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**Matthew Wynne**  
**David Reid, Ex-officio**

## Calling All Volunteers!!

The Museum Complex is OPEN and we are looking forward to welcoming our volunteers both old and new in the months ahead. We are currently in need of front desk staff for mainly afternoon shifts. If you are interested in volunteering or have volunteered in the past please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Leslie Leonard at (910) 500-4243 or by email at Leslie.leonard@ncdcr.gov.



## Green Book Exhibit to Open June 9



Advertisements for Arthur's Seafood Grill from *The Carolinian* newspaper. Top: Appeared April 2, 1948. Bottom: Appeared January 14, 1950. Arthur's was located on Person Street here in Fayetteville and listed in *The Negro Motorist Green Book* 1950-1957, and 1959-1967.

The North Carolina African American Heritage Commission (AAHC), a division of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), has created a new traveling exhibit, "Navigating Jim Crow: *The Green Book* and Oasis Spaces in North Carolina." The exhibit highlights important sites and personal memories about American travel during the "Jim Crow" era of legal segregation. *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, published between 1936 and 1966, was both a guide and a tool of resistance designed to confront the realities of racial discrimination in the United States and beyond. The book listed over 300 North Carolina businesses—from restaurants and hotels, to tourist homes, nightclubs and beauty salons—in the three decades that it was published. The exhibit highlights a complex statewide network of business owners and Green Book sites that allowed African American communities to thrive, and that created "oasis spaces" for a variety of African American travelers. The exhibit will be on display at the Museum of the Cape Fear from June 12 to July 9, 2021.

Eight vibrant panels form the traveling exhibit, showcasing images of business owners, travelers, and historic and present-day images of North Carolina Green Book sites. The words of African American travelers and descendants of Green Book site owners are featured prominently in the exhibit. Each of these stories are from oral histories collected by the AAHC in 2018 and 2019.

In addition to the exhibit, *The Green Book: Guide to Freedom* documentary on the Smithsonian channel can be viewed at no cost on the Museum of the Cape Fear's YouTube channel at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9HqvCqv9\\_LmREZeK8Y57WA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9HqvCqv9_LmREZeK8Y57WA) on June 6, 7, and 8.

A virtual conversation about the exhibit and documentary will occur on June 10 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm on Zoom. Registration details will be posted on our Facebook page and website.

The travelling exhibit will be touring the state's African American cultural centers, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, history museums, historic sites and libraries. For more tour dates, visit <https://aahc.nc.gov/green-book-project>.

This exhibit was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services MH-00-17-0027-17.





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### Museum Hours

Wednesday- Saturday  
10-3

### 1897 Poe House Tours

Wed-Fri 11:00, 1:00  
Saturday 10-2 on the hour

### Museum Staff

David Reid  
Administrator

Leslie Leonard  
Curator of Education

Megan Maxwell  
1897 Poe House  
Education Coordinator

Jim Frederickson  
Maintenance/  
Construction Technician II

Kimberly Dickens  
Office Manager  
Part Time Staff

Stephanie Purser  
Sarah Stubbs  
Kobe Brown

And more than 50  
volunteers



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The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex consists of a NC southeast regional history museum, the 1897 Poe House, and Arsenal Park. Two floors of exhibits present the rich history of southeastern North Carolina, from the Paleo-Indian period to the first decades of the 1900s in the Museum of the Cape Fear. The fully restored and furnished 1897 Poe House, home of E.A. Poe, a Fayetteville brick maker, offers a glimpse of early twentieth-century life and the changes that defined this era. Finally, Arsenal Park marks the site commissioned in 1838 by the federal government to manufacture and store arms. The arsenal was used by the Confederacy during the Civil War, and it was destroyed by Union troops under the command of General William T. Sherman in March of 1865. Admission to the Museum Complex is free, but donations are appreciated.

## Upcoming Events

### **Freedom! A Promise Disrupted** **North Carolina 1862-1901**

**CLOSES MAY 30, 2021**

#### **Museum of the Cape Fear**

Depicts the struggle that newly freed African Americans faced to maintain their freedom in the post-Civil War and Reconstruction Era of North Carolina. *Freedom! A Promise Disrupted: North Carolina, 1862-1901*, allows visitors to step through time and view how the Civil War and Reconstruction affected North Carolina's citizens. This powerful exhibit highlights African American's flight to freedom and their involvement in the Civil War. Admission is FREE.

### **Navigating Jim Crow:** **The Green Book and Oasis Spaces** **in North Carolina**

**June 12-July 9, 2021**

#### **Museum of the Cape Fear**

Eight vibrant panels form this traveling exhibit, created by the NC African American Heritage Commission. It showcases images of business owners, travelers, and historic and present-day images of North Carolina Green Book sites. The words of African American travelers and descendants of Green Book site owners are featured prominently in the exhibit. Each of these stories are from oral histories collected by the AAHC in 2018 and 2019. Admission is FREE.

### **The Green Book:** **Guide to Freedom**

#### **Documentary Showing**

**June 6-8, 2021**

#### **MCFHC YouTube Channel**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9HqvCqv9\\_LmREZek8Y57WA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9HqvCqv9_LmREZek8Y57WA)

This Smithsonian documentary film details how *The Negro Motorist Green Book* was created and how the historic travel guide helped black motorists. Viewers can see it for free on our YouTube channel June 6-8, 2021.

### **A Virtual Conversation:** **The Green Book and Oasis** **Spaces in North Carolina**

**June 10, 2021**

**6:00 pm**

#### **LIVE ZOOM EVENT**

Join us for a virtual community conversation to learn more about our latest exhibit and the experiences of African American travel during the Jim Crow era. A meeting link will be provided on our website and Facebook page.

### **History Ranger Kids Program**

**June 1-30, 2021**

#### **Regular Operating Hours**

#### **Museum of the Cape Fear**

Each week in June kids 12 yrs and under will receive a free take home activity from the Museum! Each week brings a new theme, complete all 5 weeks for a special prize!

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex is part of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources/Division of State History Museums.